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Council consideration, on the Berlin problem. Daridan headed the French, Steel the British, and Grewe the German group. I think we did rather well.

Lunched at Frank Roberts' with his wife and Kit Steel, Pleasant and productive. Thence again to the Talleyrand, and tonight for dinner with the Norstads at Marne la Coquette, in their fine country house, called in army parlance the General's "Quarters".

Tuesday, December 16, 1958

Quite a day, commencing at the Talleyrand, then at the Palais du Chaillot. There was a restricted NATO Council meeting on Berlin, and I felt lucky to attend it. Foster made by all odds the most important speech; ~~and~~ it was listened to solemnly. He talked of Khrushchev's reckless and irresponsible propensities, and the dangers of any miscalculation by him of the firmness of the Western Powers. He riddled the argument in the Soviet note about the war years, by reading the transcript of a speech by Molotov in 1938 or 1939 asserting what warmongers the British and French were, and defending Hitlerism. Emphatically, Dulles stated it was within the power of our military establishment completely to destroy the Soviet Union if it should decide to provoke a war.

I lunched at the Travellers with Lofty Becker and Bill Tyler.

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Back at Chaillot, the three of us remained for three hours drafting a communiqué with representatives of the British, French, German, Canadian and Italian Governments, under the chairmanship of Shuckburgh of the International Staff. There was much bickering, but the result was not bad.

Thereafter, the NATO Ministers chopped up our language, and about eight p.m. produced the following text:

- "1. The North Atlantic Council examined the question of Berlin.
2. The Council declares that no State has the right to withdraw unilaterally from its international engagements. It considers that the denunciation by the Soviet Union of the inter-allied agreements on Berlin can in no way deprive the other parties of their rights or relieve the Soviet Union of its obligations. Such methods destroy the mutual confidence between nations which is one of the foundations of peace.
3. The Council fully associates itself with the views expressed on the subject by the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Federal Republic of Germany in their statement of 14th December.
4. The demands expressed by the Soviet Government have created a serious situation which must be faced with determination.

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5. The Council recalls the responsibilities which each member state has assumed in regard to the security and welfare of Berlin, and the maintenance of the position of the Three Powers in that city. The member states of NATO could not approve a solution of the Berlin question which jeopardised the right of the three Western Powers to remain in Berlin as long as their responsibilities require it, and did not assure freedom of communication between that city and the free world. The Soviet Union would be responsible for any action which had the effect of hampering this free communication or endangering this freedom. The two million inhabitants of West Berlin have just reaffirmed in a free vote their overwhelming approval and support for that position.

6. The Council considers that the Berlin question can only be settled in the framework of an agreement with the USSR on Germany as a whole. It recalls that the Western Powers have repeatedly declared themselves ready to examine this problem, as well as those of European security and disarmament. They are still ready to discuss all these problems."